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CLAIMS:-

1. A virtual wireless computer network including a plurality of stations arranged to interface with each other by wireless communication in two or more regions, at least one of said regions being beyond normal wireless communication range of other said
5 regions, and wherein at least one station is a mobile station able to travel between regions, said mobile station being adapted to receive and/or transmit information by wireless communication in one region when in that region, and receive and/or transmit information to other regions when in those regions.
2. A virtual wireless computer network as claimed in claim 1, wherein one or more of
10 the mobile stations is located in a vehicle.
3. A virtual wireless computer network as claimed in claim 1, wherein one or more of the mobile stations is located on a person able to travel between regions.
4. A virtual wireless computer network as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one of the stations is hard wire connected to a backbone system.
- 15 5. A virtual wireless computer network as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the stations include slow moving stations primarily adapted to be operating within regions, and fast moving stations primarily intended to be moving between regions.
6. A virtual wireless computer network as claimed in any one of the preceding
20 claims, wherein the network is also adapted to be used as a safety alert system providing advice to the operator of a station of the presence of other stations that may be in the immediate proximity.
7. A virtual wireless computer network as claimed in claim 6, wherein the velocities of each of the stations are taken into account and a warning given to the operator
25 appropriate to the danger detected.
8. A virtual wireless computer network as claimed in claim 7, when provided to the operator of a haul truck and wherein both the velocity of the haul truck, and the position and velocity of any potential intruders in the vicinity of the haul truck are taken into consideration.
- 30 9. A virtual wireless computer network as claimed in any one of the preceding claims when used in a mining environment.
10. A virtual wireless computer network as claimed in claim 9, wherein at least one of the mobile stations is located on a mining truck.

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11. A method of communicating information comprising the steps of providing a virtual wireless network as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, and using that network to transfer information between regions.
12. A method as claimed in claim 11 when used in a mining environment.